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NEWS & FACTS
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

NATIONAL NEWS
New Supreme Court justice sworn in
p5

ANIMALS
Scientists call for ladybug protections
p10

CONTEST
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p25

October 14, 2022 • Vol. 3, Issue 130 • $5.99

Making sense of the world

THE WEEK Junior

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

IAN'S FURY

Powerful hurricane hits southeastern US p2

Debris in Florida after Hurricane Ian

DID YOU KNOW?
The eye at the center of a hurricane is calm, while winds and rain are in the eyewall around it.

Saving zoo animals

As Hurricane Ian approached, ZooTampa caretakers moved anoas, a type of small water buffalo, and endangered red wolves into trucks and trailers for safety. At the Central Florida Zoo, keepers put rare Florida black bears and a greater one-horned rhinoceros in barns and moved birds into a ballroom. All the animals are safe.

Hurricane slams southern states

A powerful storm called Hurricane Ian hit Florida, North Carolina, and South Carolina with strong winds, heavy rain, and major flooding. It was one of the most destructive storms ever to strike the US, forcing more than 40,000 people to evacuate and causing billions of dollars in damage.

What happened?

Ian formed over the Gulf of Mexico, where the water was warmer than usual, which made the storm stronger. It struck the southwest coast of Florida as a category 4 hurricane (5 is the highest) on September 28, with sustained winds of 150 mph. Rainfall hit record highs of 30 inches in some places. The heavy rains and storm surge (when water is pushed ashore by wind) caused extensive flooding. As Ian headed out over the Atlantic Ocean, it weakened to a tropical storm. It regained strength, however, and became a Category 1 hurricane that hit South Carolina and North Carolina on September 30.

Deanne Criswell

What happened in Florida?

Ian swept away homes and destroyed roads and bridges, including the causeway (a type of bridge) to a small island called Sanibel, cutting off residents from the mainland. The storm tossed boats ashore and ripped off roofs, and floodwater levels reached as high as the second floor of some buildings. Ian knocked out electricity for more than 2.6 million customers—nearly 25% of the state's utility customers. In the days after the storm, crews went door-to-door looking for survivors and rescued more than 1,600 people. At least 100 people died, including 54 in Lee County. "There's no words to describe it," the county's sheriff, Carmine Marceno, told reporters.

What happened elsewhere?

The storm hit South Carolina with 85 mph winds. It ripped out piers, tore down trees and power lines, and flooded roads. About 110,000 homes and businesses lost power. On South Carolina's Pawleys Island, waves reached as high as 25 feet. Ian weakened before reaching North Carolina but still caused major damage and power outages for 280,000 customers. Four people died in storm-related incidents.

What is being done to help people?

Rescue teams and regular citizens raced into floodwaters on foot or by boat to help people caught in the storm. In one instance, a news reporter stopped a live TV broadcast to rescue a nurse from her flooded car. President Joe Biden declared a federal state of emergency for Florida and South Carolina, which provided immediate funding for shelters and other assistance. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) sent crews to help with rescue and cleanup efforts in all three states. Florida's government sent National Guard members to 14 counties to support and coordinate emergency efforts, such as clearing roads. The state set up internet service for people without it. Meanwhile, the Red Cross and other nonprofit agencies provided shelter, meals, and assistance for people who lost their homes. Volunteers drove around giving out drinking water.

What will happen next?

Deanne Criswell, the head of FEMA, said the storm's effects were "devastating" and states face "a long road to recovery." US and state officials said rescue operations will continue until everyone is accounted for. When *The Week Junior* went to press, Biden was set to visit Florida to survey recovery efforts. About 400,000 homes and businesses in Florida and about 1,000 customers in North and South Carolina were still without power. Crews of about 21,000 people, who traveled from 30 states to help, will continue working to restore electricity. Others will clear debris and help with rebuilding. Some repairs will take weeks, months, or longer. The bridge to Sanibel, for example, will take at least two years to rebuild, officials said.

Anti-government protests in Iran

Protests against the government have swept across Iran. The demonstrations were sparked by the death of a 22-year-old woman named Mahsa Amini on September 16.

On September 13, Amini was arrested in Tehran, Iran's capital. Officers said part of her hair was exposed, which is against Iranian law. Women must cover their hair with a hijab (headscarf worn by Muslim women) and wear loose-fitting clothing that covers their arms and legs. Three days later, Amini died while in police custody. Authorities said she had a heart attack, but her family disputed this claim and said she was mistreated.

Following Amini's death, thousands of Iranian women and men began protesting in the streets, calling for an end to the strict laws that limit women's rights. Government forces responded violently. When *The Week Junior* went to press, dozens of people had been killed and about 1,500 protesters had been arrested. People across the globe protested in support of Iranians, and world leaders condemned Iran's actions.

A protest sign

A view of Denmark, which has some of the cleanest air

CLEAR SKIES
Vermont has the cleanest air of any US state, followed by New Hampshire and South Dakota.

World air pollution studied

A report analyzing air pollution in 117 countries and 6,475 cities in 2021 has been released by IQ Air, a company that makes air quality monitors and air cleaners. IQ Air said its goal is to help improve global air quality and build healthier communities.

Air pollution is measured by how much fine particulate matter, called PM2.5, is in the air. In 2021, the World Health Organization (WHO) issued guidelines establishing healthy limits of PM2.5. Exposure to air pollution can lead to health problems such as asthma.

Among the countries analyzed, Finland had the lowest level of air pollution, although it still exceeded the WHO's recommended level. Other nations with low levels of air pollution included Cape Verde, Australia, Denmark, Finland, and Estonia. Air quality improved in China, which has had high PM2.5 levels for many years. Cities with the cleanest air were Nouméa, New Caledonia; Wellington City, New Zealand; Stockholm, Sweden; and Reykjavik, Iceland.

In North America, the US, Canada, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, Costa Rica, the Bahamas, and Grenada ranked among the 30 nations with the lowest PM2.5 levels. Cities or districts with the lowest levels included San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Washington, DC.

Bangladesh was the country with the worst levels of PM2.5, followed by Chad, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and India. India's capital of New Delhi was the city with the worst air pollution.

IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

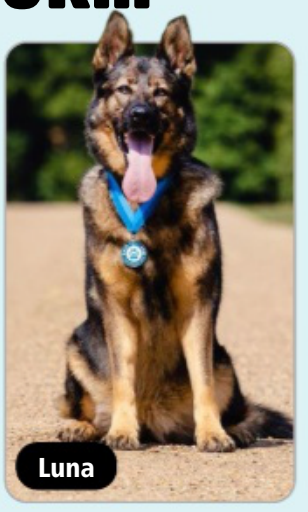
EARNING EVERY BADGE

Ben Hayes of Michigan has earned all 139 Boy Scouts merit badges—an achievement only 0.5% of Scouts ever attain. "Not everything is easy," said Hayes, who is 14 years old. "But if you work hard, you will get to your goal."

Ben Hayes (right) and a Boy Scouts mentor

HONORING A CANINE HERO

After retiring at age 10, a UK police dog named Luna was honored with an award for saving 38 lives during her eight-year career. The German Shepherd also experienced her first beach vacation. She will now live out her retirement with her handler, officer Linda McBride. "I'm very proud of her," McBride said.


Luna

HIGH-TECH RUNNING

A robot named Cassie set a world record for the fastest 100 meters run by a bipedal (two-legged) robot, with a time of 24.73 seconds. Cassie was developed at Oregon State University and was trained to run outdoors. "This may be the first bipedal robot to learn to run, but it won't be the last," said lead designer Jonathan Hurst.

Cassie in action

ON THE COVER: GETTY IMAGES (8); ALAMY; ON THIS PAGE: COURTESY OF OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY; PENNY BIRD; COURTESY OF REBECCA SHANNON; GETTY IMAGES (2); ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2); ALAMY

President Joe Biden speaking at the conference

DID YOU KNOW?
Eating a healthy breakfast can increase concentration throughout the day.

Food label update

The FDA (US agency that monitors food) has proposed new criteria for food labels. "Healthy" should be used only for foods that have a lot of vitamins and minerals and don't have much added sugar, sodium, and saturated fat. More than 80% of people aren't eating enough vegetables, fruit, and dairy, the FDA said.

White House creates plan to end hunger

On September 28, President Joe Biden announced a plan to end hunger in the US by 2030. He released the new strategy during the first conference on hunger, nutrition, and health held at the White House in more than 50 years.

What happened?

The last White House conference on hunger was hosted in 1969 by President Richard Nixon (1913–1994). The 2022 conference was attended by government officials, business leaders, health activists, and farmers. Biden said that businesses and charities have committed to donating $8 billion to start the plan. Half of that money will come from organizations that work to provide more people with access to healthy food. Other funds are being donated by large companies, including Google, Walgreens, and Tyson Foods.

What are some steps in the plan?

The plan calls for school lunches to be free for all students and for summer food programs to provide meals to more children. It also proposes that the government expand the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which helps cover the cost of food for low-income families. The National Restaurant Association said it will encourage fast-food chains to offer milk, water, or juice in children's meals instead of soda. The organization Rethink Food will work with restaurants to deliver millions of pounds of unused food to communities where many people can't afford the food they need.

Why is this plan significant?

Food prices have quickly risen this year, making it difficult for people to buy food. Government programs that provided food during the pandemic have ended. The actions outlined in the plan could ensure that millions of Americans are able to get the food they need.

What will happen next?

The expansion of the school meal program and the SNAP funding will require approval from Congress (the branch of government that makes laws). At this time, it's unclear whether a majority of lawmakers are in favor of the changes. Other parts of the plan that don't require political action, such as donations from companies, will be carried out in the weeks ahead.

WORD OF THE WEEK

TOILET

The word "toilet" comes from the French *toile*, meaning "cloth." It was first used to describe a covering, such as a cloth on a woman's dressing table. The word evolved to mean items on the table, such as those for hair-brushing and washing. It then became used for the place where washing and other bodily functions took place.

THE WEEK IN HISTORY

October 11, 1984

First US woman performs space walk

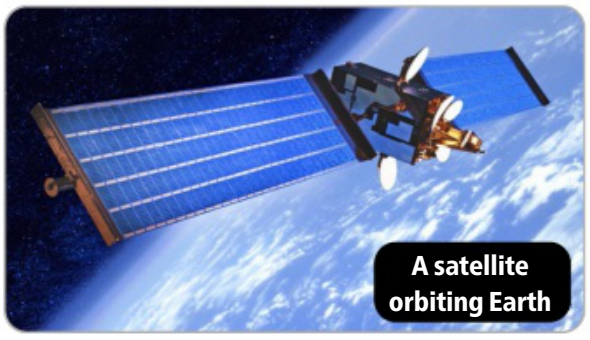
On October 11, 1984, Kathryn D. Sullivan became the first US woman to perform a spacewalk. A spacewalk is when an astronaut spends any amount of time outside a spacecraft beyond Earth's atmosphere. Sullivan's spacewalk lasted more than three hours as she did repair work on a space shuttle. "That is really great," she said while floating about 140 miles above Earth.

Kathryn D. Sullivan

Ketanji Brown Jackson, second from right

Justice welcomed in ceremony

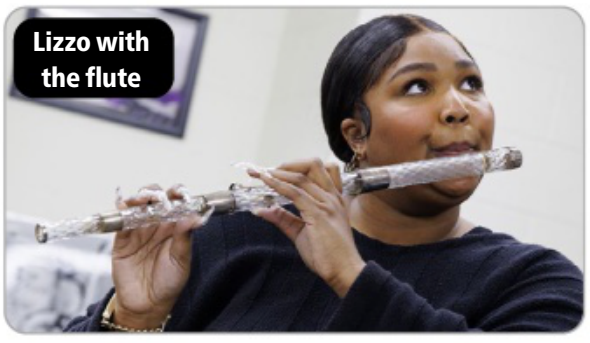
A ceremony to formally invest (install) Ketanji Brown Jackson as a justice on the US Supreme Court took place on September 30. Jackson is the first Black female justice in the court's 233-year history. Chief Justice John Roberts administered the judicial oath to Jackson in a formal ceremony, which has taken place since 1970. Of the court's nine justices, four are women (see photo above). Its new term began on October 3.



A satellite orbiting Earth

New rule for satellites in space

The FCC (US agency that regulates communication) has ruled that satellites must be removed from Earth's orbit within five years of the end of their mission. The goal of the ruling is to reduce the amount of space garbage circling the Earth. Since the 1950s, about 10,000 satellites have been sent into space, and more than half are no longer in use. The previous rule required removal within 25 years.

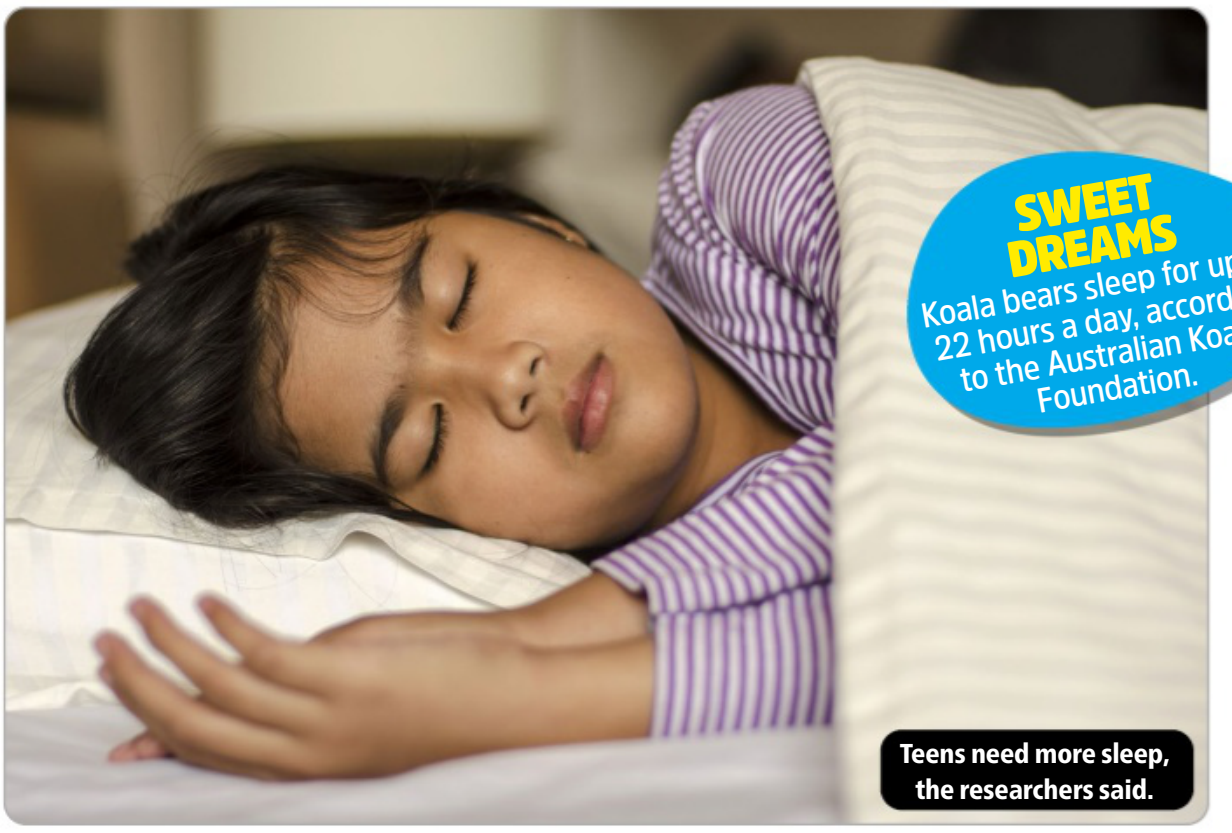


Lizzo with the flute

Pop artist plays historic flute

Singer Lizzo played a historic crystal flute once owned by President James Madison (1751–1836) at a concert in Washington, DC. The instrument is part of a collection of flutes stored in the Library of Congress. The performance came about after Lizzo, a trained flutist, was invited to view the library's collection. It's unlikely that anyone had ever played the flute before, a library official said.

GETTY IMAGES (5); SHAWN MILLER/LIBRARY OF CONGRESS; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3); FDA



SWEET DREAMS
Koala bears sleep for up to 22 hours a day, according to the Australian Koala Foundation.

Teens need more sleep, the researchers said.

New study on teen sleep released

A new study was released to clear up myths about healthy sleep habits for teenagers. The study was conducted by researchers at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

Published in the journal *Sleep Health*, the study was conducted after researchers first surveyed about 200 parents and caregivers on sleep myths. The researchers found that more than 66% of parents and caregivers believed at least some of the myths were true. "Caregivers and adolescents commonly turn to the internet and social media for guidance on topics such as sleep," said Rebecca Robbins, a study author. "Although these platforms can be sources of evidence-based information, there is the chance that misinformation [can be accepted as fact]."

Many parents didn't realize the importance of a consistent sleep schedule.

For example, 74% of parents believed it's OK to allow teens to stay up late and sleep in late on weekends. However, studies show that having a widely different sleep schedule on weekends compared to weekdays can have a negative effect on a teenager's academic performance, the researchers said. A consistent sleep schedule can improve overall health.

About 66% of parents surveyed believed that supplements containing melatonin are safe for adolescents to take. Melatonin is a hormone the brain produces to help regulate a person's sleep-awake rhythm (24-hour clock). Taking a melatonin supplement can be useful, but adolescents shouldn't take it without medical evaluation or supervision. One reason is that the amount of melatonin contained in supplements can vary widely.

A third myth the study addressed was the idea that getting too much sleep is a problem. In fact, most adolescents aren't getting enough sleep. It's recommended that teenagers sleep eight to 10 hours per night. The study's authors said they hope to promote more science-based facts about sleep in an effort to encourage better habits among young people.

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Alligator floats along the lazy river at Illinois water park" *UPI*

Around the world

A tree dormouse

Salzburg, Austria
Rare dormouse spotted after 20 years

A rare tree dormouse that has not been seen in the wild for 20 years has been found in a forest in Salzburg, Austria. (A dormouse is a small mammal found in Europe.) Forest ranger Anna-Sophie Pirtscher spotted the dormouse after searching for the species for two years. Researchers said they want to learn more about the species before their winter hibernation. Pirtscher told the BBC news agency that the discovery felt "gigantic."

Supporters of the coup wave a Russian flag.

Burkina Faso
Military seizes power

A coup (replacement of a government by force) took place in Burkina Faso on September 30. The new leader, military captain Ibrahim Traoré, said the country has "urgent" problems in every sector, including defense and health, that must be solved immediately. The leader who was overthrown, Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba, had taken the job by force in January. There are fears that Traoré could seek closer ties with Russia.

Lula (right) at a rally

Brasilia, Brazil
Elections to go to second round

Brazil's presidential election will go to a final round after neither of the two main candidates received more than 50% of the vote. The current president, Jair Bolsonaro, will face former president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (known as Lula) on October 30. Lula, who led the country from 2003 to 2010, got 48% of the vote compared to Bolsonaro's 43%.

Sweden
Scientist wins Nobel Prize

Swedish scientist Svante Pääbo has won a Nobel Prize for his work on human evolution. Pääbo studies the DNA (chemical that carries all the information about a living thing) of Neanderthals, an extinct relative of humans. "His discoveries provide the basis for exploring what makes us uniquely human," the Nobel committee said.

Svante Pääbo and a Neanderthal model

Saudi Arabia
Prince becomes new prime minister

Mohammed bin Salman, the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, has been declared prime minister by his father, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. The role of prime minister (similar to a president) is usually carried out by Saudi Arabia's king. However, the king is 86, and his son is seen as the nation's unofficial ruler. The prince has been accused of human rights abuses and has been criticized for supporting a war in Yemen, a bordering country.

Mohammed bin Salman

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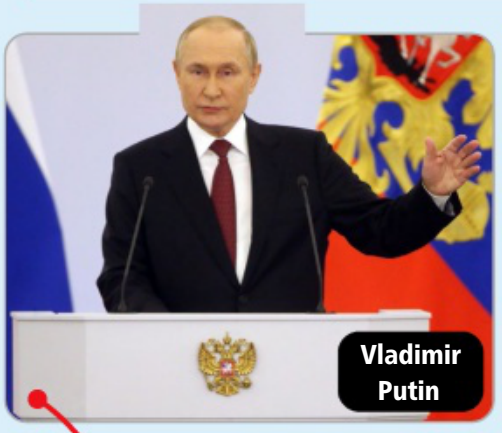
Around the world



Russia
Ukrainian regions taken over

On October 3, Russian President Vladimir Putin's decision to illegally annex (forcefully take over) four regions of Ukraine was approved by Russian lawmakers. Last month, Russia staged illegal referendums (elections) in these regions and claimed that 95% of voters wanted to join Russia. Western nations called the votes a "sham."

Tokyo, Japan
State funeral for former leader

More than 4,000 guests gathered on September 27 at the state funeral of Shinzo Abe, Japan's longest-serving prime minister. Abe was assassinated (killed for political reasons) on July 8. His death shocked the nation, where political violence is rare. State funerals in Japan are usually held only for the royal family, and the last time one was held for a politician was in 1967. About 10,000 people assembled to pay their respects near the venue.

Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh
Community center wins award

A community project in Bangladesh has been awarded the Aga Khan Award for Architecture, a major prize that honors new buildings in communities in which Muslims have a significant presence. The winning project is a series of six community spaces for refugees in Cox's Bazar, an area where thousands of Rohingya Muslims fled to escape violence in Myanmar. Judges applauded the project for supporting women's needs.

Wellington, New Zealand
Wild pigs cause havoc

Wild pigs have been running loose in a suburb of Wellington, New Zealand's capital, and scaring residents, intimidating dogs, and attacking farm animals. The pigs, which have been showing up in people's backyards and disrupting efforts to restore bird life, have been in New Zealand since the 1700s. No one knows how many pigs are currently in the area.

Malang, Indonesia
Tragedy at soccer game investigated

On October 1, at least 125 people were killed at the Kanjuruhan Stadium in Malang, after fans of the home soccer team came onto the field to protest the team's loss. Police used tear gas to disperse the crowds—despite a ban on using it at soccer games—and fans rushed to the exits in a dangerous stampede (when crowds run in fear to escape). At least 18 police officers are being investigated for their actions.

Should online games be used in classrooms?

Some say digital learning is a useful tool, but others worry it distracts students.

What you need to know

- **In the US, kids ages 8 to 18 average about 7.5 hours a day of screen time, including TV, outside school.**
- **The American Academy of Pediatrics warns that too much screen time can make it hard to sleep and concentrate and cause behavioral problems.**
- **As many as 74% of US teachers say they use digital games in class to enhance their lessons.**
- **Hundreds of millions of kids around the world use online learning games in class on a regular basis.**

DID YOU KNOW?
The first classroom computer game, the Oregon Trail, was created in 1971 to teach kids about the 1800s.

The use of online games for learning has steadily increased in recent years, with students of all ages using platforms such as Kahoot!, GeoGuessr, BrainPOP, and the Minecraft Education Edition in class. Many of these digital tools focus on strengthening math, reading, and analytical skills, while others help with social studies, geography, and STEM topics. Some teachers and experts say these games make learning interactive and engaging. But many parents and others say that kids already spend too much time on devices and learning should be live, not on screen. What do you think? Should online games be used in classrooms?

Yes—they make learning fun

Kids learn more when they're having a good time, and what's more fun—reading about ancient Greece or building a 3-D monument to the Greek gods in a colorful, interactive game? Online games also help teachers. Class sizes have grown in recent years, and it's hard for teachers to meet every student's needs. But online games can adjust to a student's reading or math levels as they play and give them personalized support. This is especially helpful for students with different learning abilities or styles. Online games also help students acquire problem-solving and strategy skills better than any textbook or worksheet can.

No—there are too many downsides

Online games can't replace traditional learning. They're entertaining, but they can be distracting and can even make regular classroom lessons seem boring by comparison. Screen time can be bad for your health, too. Studies show that being active helps kids learn, but when they're online, they're sitting still. Screen time can also cause eye strain and headaches. And when students are staring at a screen, they're disconnected from classmates and teachers. Activities such as group work help students learn to collaborate and communicate, but playing online games takes away from these face-to-face interactions.

YES Three reasons why online games should be used in classrooms

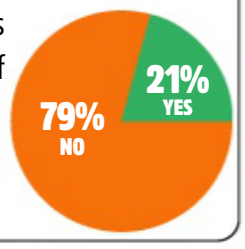
1. **Online games are fun, entertaining, and familiar to kids, so they make learning more interesting and engaging.**
2. **Online games can adapt to each student's strengths and weaknesses, which helps teachers and all kinds of learners.**
3. **They are a great way for kids to learn to solve problems and strategize.**

NO Three reasons why online games should not be used in classrooms

1. **Online games can be distracting and make regular lessons seem boring.**
2. **Screen time at school can mean less physical activity, which is not good for kids' health and ability to learn.**
3. **Kids who are playing games online aren't interacting and collaborating with other students in real life.**

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if Election Day should be a national holiday. Your votes are in and the winner is clear: 79% of you said no, and 21% said yes.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, have a parent or guardian visit theweekjunior.com/polls with you so you can vote in our debate. Vote YES if you believe online games should be used in classrooms or NO if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the Big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly and objectively in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on the page do not reflect those of The Week Junior, and the page is not funded by third parties.

GETTY IMAGES

Advocate for better health

NBA star Chris Paul is on a mission to promote plant-based lifestyles.

Since 2019, despite his love for meaty dishes like fried chicken and pulled pork, basketball player Chris Paul has lived a plant-based lifestyle. With a new line of plant-based snacks called Good Eat'n, he's ambitious about getting more people interested in doing the same.

Paul, 37, point guard for the Phoenix Suns, has been in the NBA since 2005. He is widely considered to be one of the greatest players in basketball history.

BIG HONOR
Chris Paul was named one of the 75 best players in NBA history by the NBA 75th Anniversary Team in 2021.

When he started eating vegan, it was to improve his athletic performance, Paul told *Men's Health*. "Then it changed my lifestyle," he said. While growing up in North Carolina, a state known for its barbecue, many of his family members suffered from heart disease. He believes a lack of education about healthy foods is a part of the problem.

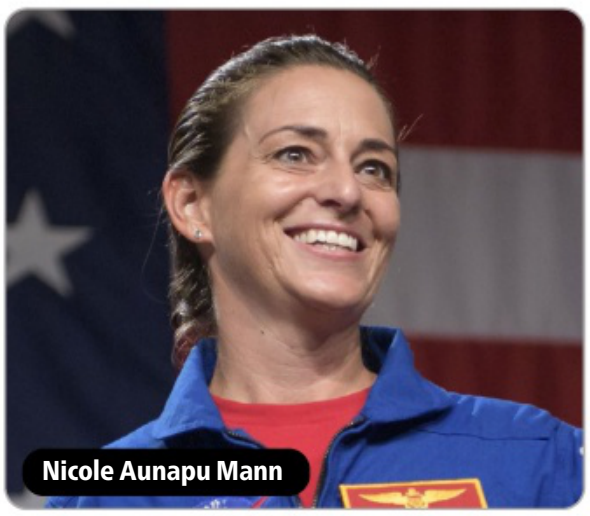
His snack line, made in collaboration with food delivery company Gopuff, consists of seven different products, including flavored tortilla chips and puffs. Paul hopes the snacks will be flavorful enough to appeal to those who do not typically eat plant-based products, and that Gopuff will help to introduce plant-based foods to areas that don't typically carry them. Previously, Paul worked with Koia, a company that sells plant-based shakes, to install vending machines on the campuses of historically Black colleges and universities.

"As someone with a plant-based diet who loves flavorful foods, I know firsthand that it can be difficult to find delicious and approachable plant-based alternatives to your favorite snacks," he told *Business Wire*.

Chris Paul

Reaching for the stars

Nicole Aunapu Mann, a member of the Wailacki of the Round Valley Indian Tribes in Northern California, has become the first Native American woman in space. She will led a mission to the International Space Station this month. A colonel in the Marine Corps, Mann has a master's degree in mechanical engineering and joined NASA (the US space agency) in 2013. Of her history-making mission, she told *Reuters*, "It's important that we celebrate our diversity and really communicate that specifically to the younger generation."


Nicole Aunapu Mann

Shawn Rodrigue-Lemieux

Teen takes chess title

Last month, Shawn Rodrigue-Lemieux, an 18-year-old chess player from Quebec, Canada, took home the trophy for World Chess Champion in the under-18 category. He is the first person from Quebec and the second Canadian to win that title. Rodrigue-Lemieux's journey with the sport began at age 6, when he learned to play through an after-school program. He is now two victories away from earning grandmaster status, which is the highest ranking in chess. "I want to go to university, but chess is also part of my future," he told Canada's CBC News.

OVERHEARD

"The difference between being successful and not being successful is not giving up."

Jennifer Lopez, singer and actress, age 53, on her long career in Hollywood and her pride in her Puerto Rican–American heritage

GETTY IMAGES (4); DAVID LLADA/FIDE

WOW! One ladybug can eat up to 5,000 insects in its lifetime.

Ladybugs can be good for plants.

Helping monarchs

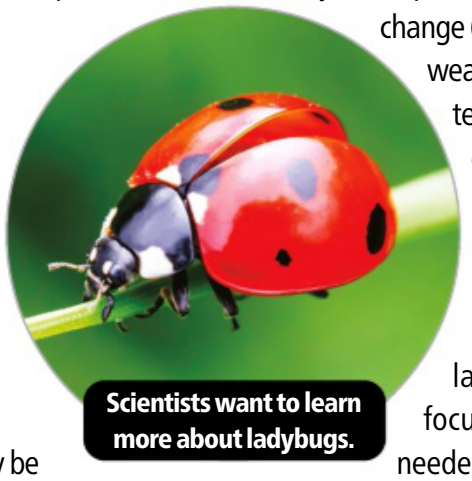
Since the 1990s, the public has been involved in a project to protect monarch butterflies, which are endangered. The Monarch Larva Monitoring Project relies on volunteers in the US and Canada to collect data on the butterflies, including sightings of monarch eggs, larva (caterpillars), and their main food source (milkweed).

A larva (left) and a monarch

Ladybugs need our help

A new study of ladybugs has revealed that not enough attention has been given to the spotty insect, which is an important pest controller and is under threat.

There are more than 6,000 species of ladybug around the world, including nearly 500 in the US. They are helpful in protecting plants, including crops eaten by people. The ladybugs do this by eating smaller insects, like aphids, that can damage the crops. Scientists say populations of ladybugs may be on the decline globally.



Scientists want to learn more about ladybugs.

The new study was done by an international group of researchers, including scientists at the UK Center for Ecology and Hydrology. They found that not enough is known about the insects and how they are responding to threats like climate change (long-term changes in world weather patterns, including rising temperatures), pollution, and changes in how land is used.

The study points out that although projects that aim to save other insects, like bees, have also helped ladybugs, more research focused specifically on ladybugs is needed in order to better understand how to help them. "Ladybugs are well-loved, charismatic insects, but we know so little about them," said Helen Roy, one of the study authors.

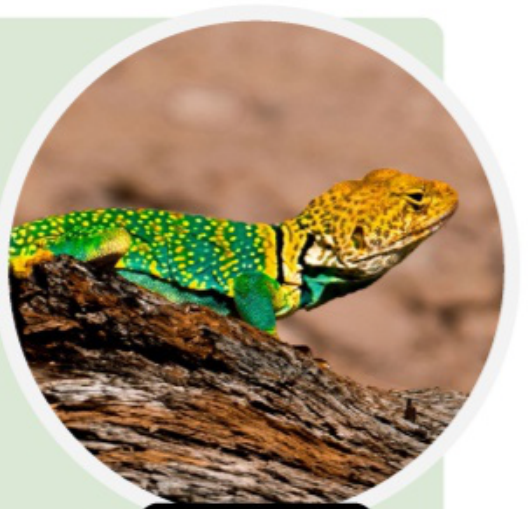
Roy and her colleagues on the research team said several actions need to be taken to protect ladybug populations. These include recruiting more citizen scientists (members of the public) to record ladybug observations and share them with researchers. Another step is to create more insect-friendly habitats. "Everyone can make a difference and contribute to the conservation of ladybugs and other insects," said Roy. "We need to act fast and act together."

Actions families can take include avoiding the use of insect repellents on plants so there are more pests for ladybugs to eat, planting flowers that provide nectar to nourish ladybugs, and keeping leaves on the lawn instead of raking and removing them. Leaves provide a habitat for ladybugs in colder months.

PLACE OF THE WEEK

Colorado National Monument, Colorado

Established in 1911, this national monument in western Colorado is characterized by its imposing mesas (hills with flat tops) and red rock canyons. The 23-mile Rim Rock Drive winds through the heart of the 32-square-mile monument and has rock layers dating back 1.7 billion years. Among the interesting formations is Balanced Rock, a 600-ton boulder that sits precariously on a sandstone column. A favorite with rock climbers, the monument is home to animals such as desert bighorn sheep, coyotes, and collared lizards.



A collared lizard

The species of mouse that was studied

DID YOU KNOW?
The Andes mountain range extends across seven countries in South America.

Unraveling a mountain mice mystery

There is something peculiar about the Abrothrix hirta, a species of mice in the Andes Mountains in Patagonia, on the southern tip of South America. Those that live on the western side of the mountains are larger than the ones on the eastern side.

To understand why, researchers from the Field Museum in Chicago and the Argentine Museum of Natural Sciences studied the skulls of 450 of these soft-haired mice. The hypothesis they put forward in the study is that the size difference is due to the "rain-shadow effect." That is when one side of a mountain is rainy and the other side is dry. This happens because the clouds lose moisture as they travel over the mountain. The side that gets more rain—in this case, the west—has greater plant growth, which means more food for the mice to eat. This could be why the western mice were bigger.

Researchers say that climate change could affect plant growth in the region, which in turn could threaten the mammal's diet. According to researcher Noé de la Sancha, this potential threat is a reason to continue studying the mice. "It's important to understand how little we know about most small mammals," he said.

Animal of the week: Masai giraffe

A Masai giraffe calf was born at the Columbus Zoo in Ohio at the end of August, while another healthy Masai giraffe calf, named Tisa, was recently born at the Virginia Zoo. Masai giraffes are considered endangered in the wild.

- **LIFE SPAN:** About 10 to 15 years in the wild
- **HABITAT:** Savannas in Kenya and Tanzania
- **SIZE:** Up to about 18 feet tall and 3,000 pounds
- **DIET:** Includes leaves, twigs, flowers, and bark
- **FUN FACT:** Giraffe calves can stand upright 30 minutes after birth.

Good week / Bad week

Kemp's ridley sea turtles
Baby sea turtles, called hatchlings, have been observed on Louisiana's Chandeleur Islands for the first time in at least 75 years. Kemp's ridley sea turtles, which are the sea turtles most at risk of disappearing, were among the hatchlings.

Dolphins and porpoises
A strain of bird flu was found in a bottlenose dolphin in Florida and a porpoise in Sweden. This strain has been seen in other animals besides birds, but this is the first evidence that it has infected these species, and there could be more cases in the future.

ON THIS PAGE: JORGE CÁRDENAS; GETTY IMAGES (4); ALAMY; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (5)

Ask a zookeeper: "What is the difference between a leopard and a jaguar?" Anwesha, 11, Texas

Mary-Kathryn Mitchell
Field supervisor of carnivores, Naples Zoo

Leopards are smaller in weight and stature compared to jaguars. Both cats have groupings of spots, but jaguars have black spots within those while leopards do not. Jaguars are found in Central and South America, and leopards are found in Africa and Asia.

A leopard

A jaguar

Do you have a question for a zookeeper? Send it to *hello@theweekjunior.com*. Find out more about the Naples Zoo at napleszoo.org.

Where our laws and

Members of Congress serve as the voice of the American people.

Most of the major laws that govern our lives are made in the halls of Congress. Find out more about this important branch of the US government.

The US Constitution

What is Congress?

The US Constitution (the nation's highest law) established Congress as the legislative branch of the federal government, in balance with two other branches—executive (President) and judicial (courts). Congress is made of two parts: the Senate and the House of Representatives. Each state sends two people to serve in the Senate, for a total of 100 senators. The number of representatives a state can send to the House depends on its population. Montana has one, while California has 53. In total, the House has 435 representatives (and six non-voting members). Besides making laws, Congress can approve treaties, oversee taxes, and declare war.

Signing the Constitution

Shaping the nation

The first session of Congress was scheduled to meet on March 4, 1789, at New York City's Federal Hall. But many members, traveling by ship or horse, were delayed by winter storms. The House finally convened on April 1, with the Senate following on April 6. The first Congress set up most of the policies for the new nation's government and certified the election of George Washington as President and John Adams as Vice President.

WOW!
A total of 12,599 people have served as members of Congress. Of those, 680 served in both the House and Senate.

Congress began meeting at the US Capitol in Washington, DC, in 1800.

Perks & quirks

Working in the US Congress comes with enormous responsibilities as well as some cool—and unusual—benefits. Here are a few.

The US Capitol subway

Capitol subway

In the early 1900s, a train system was built under the Capitol to help members of Congress move quickly between the chambers. There are two lines to the Senate (north) side and one on the House (south) side. Each ride takes less than a minute.

GETTY IMAGES (7); ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL

history are made

Congress in session

How Congress works

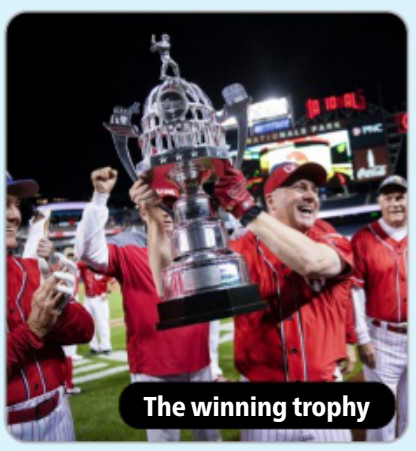
Today, Congress meets at the US Capitol Building in Washington, DC. Lawmakers in either half of Congress can introduce a bill (draft of a law). The bill is discussed by a committee. If the committee approves it, all members can then debate it on the "floor" and propose amendments (changes). After that, a vote is held on whether to pass the bill. If a majority votes yes, it is sent to the other half of Congress and the process repeats. In order for a bill to become law, it must be passed by both bodies and signed by the President.

The midterm elections

Senators serve six-year terms, while House members are elected every two years. On November 8, all 435 House seats and 35 Senate seats (plus five non-voting seats) will be up for election. Because this vote takes place about halfway through the President's four-year term, it is known as a midterm election. The balance of Democrats, Republicans, and Independents in each part of Congress could also change as new members are voted in. The party that wins a greater number of seats will have more power to make laws that match its goals. When Americans go to the polls in November to vote, they will be shaping the country's future.

Candy desk

Desk 80 in the Senate is nicknamed the "candy desk." Senator George Murphy of California was assigned the desk in 1968, and he had a sweet tooth. Senators have been stocking the drawer with free candy ever since.


The winning trophy

Baseball game

Every summer, Republican and Democratic members of Congress put aside their differences to play a baseball game for charity, with the winning team receiving a trophy. Representative John Tener organized the first game in 1909.

DID YOU KNOW?
At 449.5 feet high, the Great Pyramid of Giza is the tallest pyramid in Egypt.

The pyramids at Giza, in Egypt

Shedding light on pyramid mystery

Scientists are one step closer to solving the mystery of the ancient pyramids of Giza, in Egypt. The pyramids have stood as amazing examples of human achievement for more than 4,500 years. To build the massive structures, workers had to transport 2.3 million stone blocks, each weighing about two tons, without the help of modern technology or equipment.

For many years, experts have believed that workers might have created a small canal extending from the Nile River to the construction site and used the power of the water to move these blocks. However, a research team has found that a canal might not have been necessary. A long-lost arm of the Nile known as the Khufu Branch once flowed very close to the pyramids, and it could have been used to bring the stones directly to the construction site.

The Nile River

The researchers used a type of science known as paleoclimatology, the study of past climates. They first analyzed layers of rock from the Giza area. This allowed them to estimate the water levels in the Khufu Branch thousands of years ago. Next, they studied fossils of pollen grains found there, which came from 61 different plant species. The pollen indicated where the water levels were once high enough to support rich plant life.

The evidence revealed that the Khufu Branch was flowing high near the Giza pyramids between 2700 and 2200 BCE, when the three main pyramids were most likely built.

Ancient Egyptian engineers would have been able to load building materials onto boats and float them down the waterway. Without a water level in the Khufu Branch high enough to provide space for boats, "it would be very difficult if not impossible to build the pyramids," lead author Hader Sheisha said.

The scientists found that local water levels fell during a dry phase that began in the 6th century BCE. By 332 BCE, the Khufu Branch had dwindled to the size of a small channel. Eventually, it dried up completely. For the researchers, these changes in the natural landscape provide a link to human history. "Knowing more about the environment can solve part of the enigma of the pyramids' construction," said Sheisha.

Discovering very old cheese

Researchers at Saqqara

Archaeologists recently uncovered a collection of pottery at the Saqqara necropolis (a large cemetery of an ancient city), a site in the Giza region of Egypt that is home to Egypt's oldest pyramid. When they opened the ceramic vessels, they found blocks of a white cheese called halloumi. Scientists believe it was made about 2,600 years ago.

The team plans to open another set of sealed vessels in upcoming days, according to Egypt's Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. Researchers did not comment on how the solid mass of ancient cheese smelled or tasted. A 3,200-year-old cheese discovered in Egypt in 2018 is the oldest cheese ever found.

Waterless toilet could help millions of people

Electronics company Samsung has created a prototype (test model) for a household toilet that eliminates waste without using water. This means it could be used in places where water or sewage disposal systems are scarce. Worldwide, about 3.6 billion people do not have access to proper sanitation. When waste is not correctly processed, harmful chemicals can get into the environment and spread disease.

Jay Y. Lee (left) and Bill Gates

The toilet is energy-efficient and uses technology such as heat treatment and bioprocessing (using living material to create new products) to get rid of germs in the waste. Solid waste is turned into ashes, while liquid waste is purified. The released waste products are safe for the environment, and the treated water can be recycled.

The toilet was developed as part of the Reinvent the Toilet Challenge, launched in 2011 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, a nonprofit organization that focuses on helping people around the world lead healthy lives. Co-chair Bill Gates and Samsung Vice Chairman Jay Y. Lee announced the winning design.

Samsung said the design of the toilet needs to be refined before it can be mass-produced and put to use in developing nations (countries that are very poor). These countries are less likely to have access to clean toilets and water and have high rates of illness caused by inadequate sanitation.

DID YOU KNOW?
The first flushing toilet was developed in England in 1596 by inventor Sir John Harrington.

The prototype of the toilet

Chocolate has many health benefits.

Cocoa found to reduce blood pressure

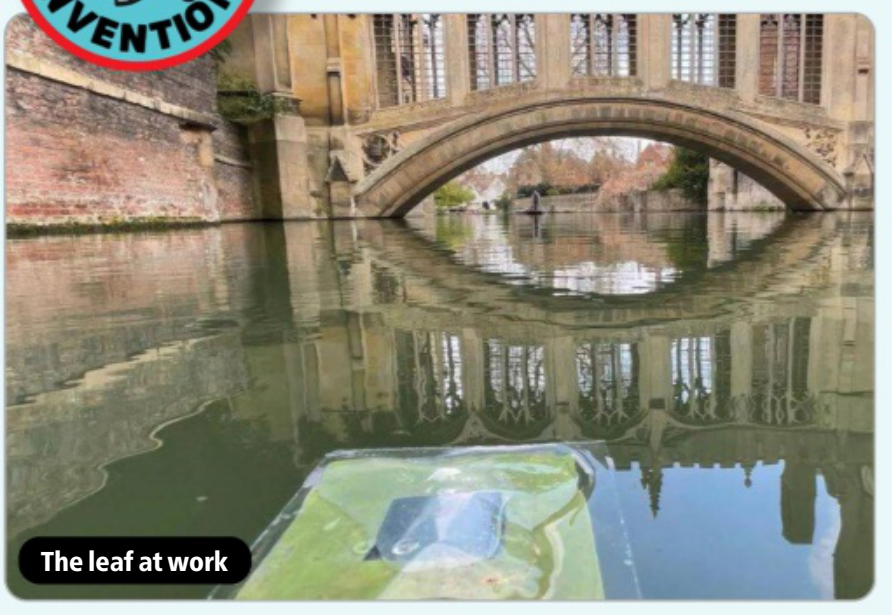
Scientists in the UK have confirmed that cocoa, the main ingredient in chocolate, can help reduce blood pressure (the force of blood flowing through blood vessels). High blood pressure can cause major health problems, such as heart disease.

The study took place over eight days and included 11 healthy participants. They were given capsules containing either cocoa flavanol (the main compound in cocoa) or a placebo (substance with no actual medicine) and did not know which they received. They were asked to monitor their blood pressure before and after taking the capsules.

The team found that cocoa reduced blood pressure, but only in people whose blood pressure was high before they took it. It did not affect people whose blood pressure was low that day. This is important because blood pressure changes throughout the day, and medicines can sometimes reduce it too much.

AMAZING INVENTION

An artificial leaf that creates energy



The leaf at work

Scientists in the UK created an artificial floating leaf that uses photosynthesis (when plants turn sunlight and water into energy) to create clean energy. It also captures carbon dioxide (a gas that traps heat in the atmosphere and warms the planet).

The leaf is made up of thin layers of a light-absorbing material protected by water-repellent layers. Scientists believe these low-cost, lightweight, flexible devices could create power and energy anywhere there is water, without taking up space on land.

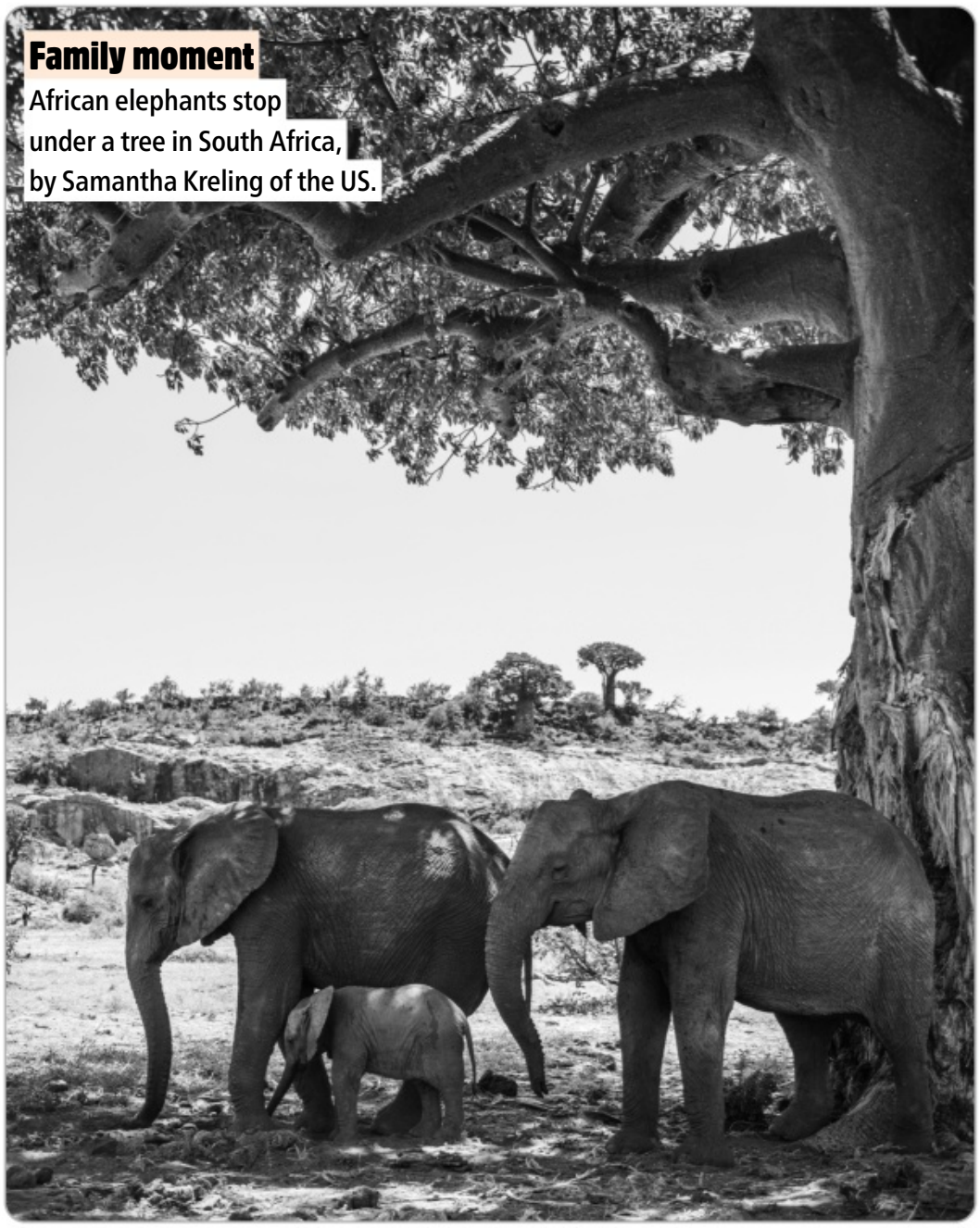
COURTESY OF SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS (2); GETTY IMAGES; VIRGIL ANDREI; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2); THE NATIONAL

Photos of the week

2022 BMC ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION IMAGE COMPETITION FINALISTS

Hanging on
A wood frog clings to a pile of eggs under the water's surface, by Lindsey Swierk of the US.

Snack time
A waxwing bird enjoys a sweet treat on a branch, by Alwin Hardenbol of Finland.



Family moment
African elephants stop under a tree in South Africa, by Samantha Kreling of the US.

ROBERTO GARCÍA-ROA; ALWIN HARDENBOL; ALEXANDER T. BAUGH; LINDSEY SWIERK; BRANDON ANDRÉ GÜELL; SAMANTHA KRELING

Photos of the week

Egg-cellent
Treefrog tadpoles peek out of clear eggs, by Brandon André Güell of the US.

Wow factor
A fungus grows out of the body of a fly, by Roberto García-Roa of Spain.

I've got you
A bat snatches a frog, by Alexander T. Baugh of the US.

BIG WINS
The last back-to-back World Series winners were the New York Yankees, who won in 1998, 1999, and 2000.

Los Angeles Dodgers teammates

Rule changes in 2023

MLB games will look different in 2023. To speed up play, there will be a pitch clock. If time runs out, the pitcher will be charged with a ball. To allow more hits, defensive shifts will not be allowed. Two infielders must be to the left and right of second base when a pitch is thrown.

MLB teams get ready for playoffs

Major League Baseball (MLB) ended its regular season on October 5. The teams heading to the playoffs were set by October 4, but when *The Week Junior* went to press, the New York Mets and the Atlanta Braves of the National League (NL) East were battling for first place in their division. The Braves, who won the 2021 World Series, needed one win or a Mets loss to win the title. The second-place team goes to the playoffs as a wild card.

Justin Verlander

Starting this season, MLB has expanded its playoffs to include 12 teams instead of 10. Under the new format, the winners of the East, Central, and West divisions in both the NL and AL qualify for the playoffs. They get the top three seeds based on their records. The three teams with the next best records in each league, from any division, qualify as wild cards. The top two seeds in each league will not compete in the upcoming Wild Card Series.

The Los Angeles Dodgers of the NL West finished the season with the best record in all of MLB. They are the seventh team in MLB history to win at least 110 games and the first NL team to do so in more than 100 years. They will be joined in the playoffs by the Mets, the Braves, and the St. Louis Cardinals, who won the NL Central. The San Diego Padres, who added slugger Juan Soto in August, clinched a wild card spot, as did the Philadelphia Phillies. On October 3, the Phillies became the last MLB team to earn a playoff slot when they beat the Houston Astros, 3–0. It will be their first time playing in the postseason since 2011.

In the American League (AL), the West division's Astros, last year's AL champions, had the best record thanks in part to star pitcher Justin Verlander. The Cleveland Guardians won the Central division, and the AL East's New York Yankees earned the number two seed in the AL playoffs with help from Aaron Judge, who was looking to hit a record-breaking 62nd home run. The AL wild card teams are the Toronto Blue Jays, Tampa Bay Rays, and Seattle Mariners. The Mariners had gone 20 seasons without a playoff appearance.

The Wild Card Series for both the NL and the AL begin on October 7.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

SOCCER

With a 3–0 win over the Orlando Pride on October 1, the OL Reign ended the National Women's Soccer League regular season with the league's best record. They earned the NWSL Shield and the top seed in the playoffs. In English Premier League rivalry matches, Arsenal beat Tottenham Hotspur, 3–1, on October 1, while Manchester City beat Manchester United, 6–3, the following day.

Quarterback Josh Allen with the ball

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

On October 2, the Buffalo Bills were down by 17 points but beat the Baltimore Ravens, 23–20, on a last-second field goal. Bills quarterback Josh Allen threw for 213 yards and ran for 70.

PARA HOCKEY

The US sled hockey team defeated Canada, 4–0, on September 30 to win their seventh straight International Para Hockey Cup. During the tournament, American Declan Farmer scored 13 goals, the most of any player.

Team USA

FUN FACT
The average height of the players on Team USA's current women's team is 6'1".

US women win basketball World Cup

On October 1, the US women's basketball team beat China, 83–61, to win their fourth straight FIBA Women's World Cup. (FIBA is the International Basketball Federation.) The World Cup was held in Sydney, Australia. The victory earned the US a spot in the 2024 Paris Olympics.

The World Cup takes place every four years. The event features 12 national teams from around the globe. Team USA has now won the FIBA gold 11 times. They have only lost one game in Olympic and World Cup competitions since 1994.

The Americans had a "new look" team, which means the roster had many different players than in the past. Every member of Team USA also plays for the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA), including A'ja Wilson, Kelsey Plum, and Chelsea Gray, who are members of the Las Vegas Aces, the 2022 WNBA champions. The head coach is Cheryl Reeve of the Minnesota Lynx. The new team worked well together and won their games by an average of 40.75 points. The only team to give them a brief challenge was Serbia, their opponent in the quarterfinals.

In the final, China got off to a strong start and was down by only 10 points at halftime. Still, Team USA was unstoppable and the defense had 42 deflections (a redirection of an offensive player's ball) in the game. Their 22-point victory was the largest margin in a World Cup final since 1983. The Aces trio scored more than half of the team's total points in the game. When it was over, Wilson was named the World Cup's Most Valuable Player (MVP). She averaged 17.2 points, 7.5 rebounds, and 2.2 steals over eight games.

COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Allen Yap**

Sport: **Tennis**

"Allen teaches me a lot of cool tricks, tips, angles, and shots that help me when I play matches and tournaments. He is always so patient and willing to work with me, and he helps me so I get better and better each day I have a lesson. He is always so positive and cheerful. He has a great sense of humor and awesomeness. Allen motivates me to be the best I can be and is overall the best tennis coach ever!" Juliet, 12, California

To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to *hello@theweekjunior.com.* Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Delaney Graham

AGE: 23 SPORT: SOCCER
TEAM: DUKE UNIVERSITY

Family game My dad played soccer growing up and coached a women's club team in law school. When he found out he was having daughters, he wanted us to play. I started at around 4 years old.

Building confidence In middle school and the beginning of high school, I had trouble finding my love for the game. I was athletic but didn't have technical skills, so I lacked confidence. When I got more comfortable on the ball and with my team, I started playing better and enjoying it more. I'm proud that I figured out I'm as good as anybody else.

Forming bonds I learned from past coaches that if you hope to achieve anything on the field or on the court, you have to have strong relationships with your teammates and not be so focused on yourself and your own achievements.

Game prep Before I play, I journal to get centered and focused. As a team, we write on our wrists the number of shutouts we've had.

Top honor My junior year in college, I was named to the Academic All-America second team. To be recognized for both my athletic and academic accomplishments was awesome.

Big goals It's my last season, so I want to win the conference and national championships.

Best advice Always believe in yourself. It sounds cheesy, but I didn't when I was younger and it showed. Focusing on my strengths instead of my weaknesses helped me get recognized and respected on the field.

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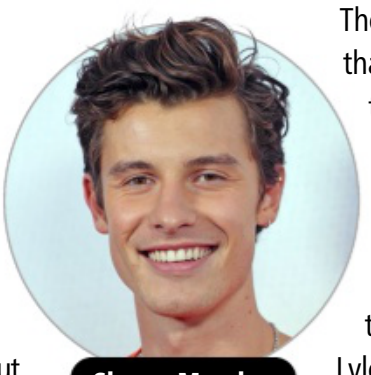
Lyle, Lyle Crocodile

Lyle becomes a musical

A new live-action film based on the beloved children's book *Lyle, Lyle Crocodile* is about using your voice.

The classic children's book *Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile* has been turned into a live-action movie musical of the same name. The film, which features a computer-generated crocodile, is in theaters now.

The character of Lyle was created by author Bernard Waber, who introduced him in the 1962 picture book *The House on East 88th Street. Lyle, Lyle Crocodile* was published in 1965, followed by other books about Lyle. In the film, Josh Primm and his parents move to New York City. He struggles to make friends but then finds Lyle in his attic and they form a connection.


Shawn Mendes

The biggest departure from the books is that Lyle can sing in the film. In fact, it's the only way he can communicate.

The film's directors, Will Speck and Josh Gordon, grew up reading the *Lyle* books. "He was always so sweet and trying to find his voice," Gordon told *The Week Junior.* In the books, Lyle was raised by a showman, so the directors were inspired to have him express himself only through song. The film features original music by award-winning songwriters Benj Pasek and Justin Paul (Pasek & Paul).

Pop star Shawn Mendes voices Lyle, and the directors thought they shared an innocent energy. Gordon said Mendes could also relate to Lyle and "the idea that you need love and support in order to express your gift." The film emphasizes being understanding and remaining open. Speck said, "You can change in unlikely ways through the influence of unlikely people—even a crocodile."

More Pasek & Paul musicals

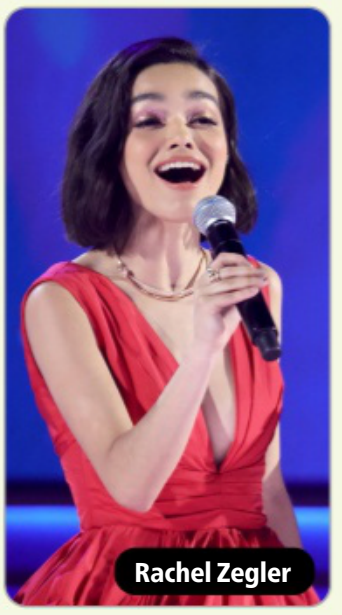
The Greatest Showman

Benj Pasek and Justin Paul wrote the original songs for the 2017 film inspired by the life of P.T. Barnum. The pair won a Golden Globe Award for the song "This Is Me."

Dear Evan Hansen

The songwriters created the music and lyrics for the Broadway hit about a high school boy with severe social anxiety. In 2017, they won their first Tony Award for the show's original score (composed music).

Snow White


Rachel Zegler

The pair have written original songs for Disney's live-action version of the fairy tale starring Rachel Zegler. *Wonder Woman*'s Gal Gadot will play the Evil Queen. It is set to be released in 2024.

FUN FACT
Salem, Massachusetts, was settled in 1626 and is nicknamed the "City of Peace."

Hocus Pocus 2

Halloween classic gets a sequel

As Halloween approaches, a set of famous witch sisters have been brought back to life. *Hocus Pocus 2*, a sequel to a popular comedy film from 1993, is now streaming on Disney+.

In the original *Hocus Pocus*, 17th-century witches Winifred, Mary, and Sarah Sanderson are conjured up in modern-day Salem, Massachusetts, and have to be stopped by local kids. Over the past 29 years, the film has become a holiday classic. Kathy Najimy, who plays Mary, compared it to *The Wizard of Oz* because it's something today's parents watched as kids and have introduced to their own children. "It becomes this part of the fabric of the history of the family," she said.

In the sequel, which reveals how the sisters became witches, the trio return to modern-day Salem. They face off with teen best friends Becca, Izzy, and Cassie, who have an interest in witchcraft. Careful viewers may notice that the colors each girl wears and even her hairstyle is meant to reflect one of the Sandersons.

As the teens and the witches discover over the course of the film's wild night, there is power in sticking together. In fact, when Bette Midler, who plays Winifred, was asked what she expects people to take away from the new film, she said, "We talked a lot about leaning on each other, and counting on each other, and loyalty to each other."

MOVIE NIGHT

If you're looking for a film to watch with family or friends, consider this pick of the week.

Minions: The Rise of Gru (2022) PG

Peacock

This is the fifth film in the *Despicable Me* franchise. Because of its major success this summer, *Despicable Me* is now the highest-grossing animated movie franchise in history. The film, set in the 1970s, tells the origin story of supervillain Gru. Young Gru is plotting world domination from his mom's basement with help from the Minions, his tiny yellow helpers. Gru is a huge fan of the supervillain group the Vicious 6, who recently stole an ancient magical stone and ousted their leader. He interviews for the open spot in the group, but they laugh him off because of his age. Feeling hurt, he steals their stone and runs away. With the Vicious 6 after him, Gru will need all the help he can get. Can the Minions save him?

THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST

Abominable and the Invisible City

(Peacock and Hulu)

In this follow-up series to the 2019 film *Abominable*, Yi, Jin, and Peng discover a world full of magical creatures existing right around them. With their new lovable yeti friend, Everest, they embark on a series of adventures to help creatures in need.

Rivers of Life

(PBS)

Explore some of Earth's famous rivers with this documentary series. See African elephants battling rapids in the Zambezi, trace the Danube through Europe's epic landscapes, and find out about the people who have lived near the Yukon in North America for centuries.

Oddballs

(Netflix)

This new animated comedy series follows James, a bubble-shaped boy who is always ranting about things that annoy him. His best friends are a talking crocodile and a girl claiming to be from the future. The trio make plans to try to fix the world, but they always go awry.

DISNEY; DREAMWORKS/HULU/PEACOCK; COURTESY OF BBC STUDIOS/LOUIS LABROM; COURTESY OF NETFLIX; ILLUMINATION/PEACOCK; ON LEFT PAGE: COURTESY OF SONY PICTURES; GETTY IMAGES (2); ALAMY (2)

WOW! It is estimated that more than 240 million people around the world play soccer.

A women's team in FIFA 23

Play soccer in new FIFA game

FIFA 23 is a new edition of the world's most popular soccer video game. It is out now for the Nintendo Switch, PlayStation platforms, Xbox systems, and the PC. This is the 30th edition of the series and the biggest one yet.

FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football Association) is the organization that governs the soccer world in real life. In the game, you can play with virtual versions of more than 700 pro teams from leagues across the world. FIFA 23 is the first edition that includes women's clubs: UK's Barclays FA Women's Super League and France's Division 1 Arkema. They are accessed in Tournament Mode. Sam Kerr, a striker for Chelsea FC's women's team, is one of the game's cover stars. The other is Paris Saint-Germain forward Kylian Mbappé.

Kylian Mbappé

FIFA 23 has ultra-realistic gameplay that is based on more than 6,000 movements captured in actual games and drills. There are several different ways to take part in the action. Multiplayer Mode brings gamers together in one-off matches and big tournaments, while Career Mode allows you to manage a team. In Volta arcade mode, you can compete in skills games such as Target Gallery and Foot Tennis. As in real life, a men's World Cup is coming to FIFA 23 this fall and a women's World Cup tournament is expected next summer.

Since soccer is such a global sport, FIFA 23 is loaded with more than 100 songs representing 34 countries. Artists include stars such as Bad Bunny and Jack Harlow. The soundtrack is even available as a playlist on Spotify.

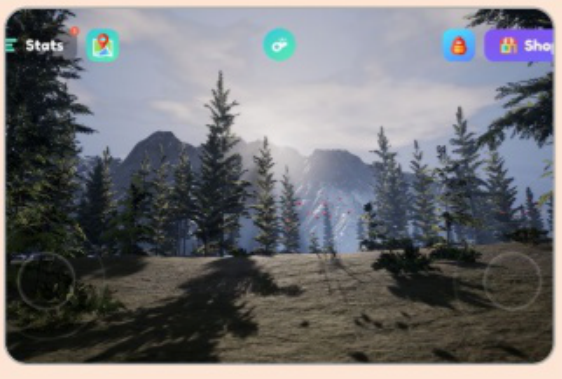
PODCAST OF THE WEEK

AFRICAN FOLKTALES WITH MISS JO JO

Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Podcasts

The stories featured in this award-winning series have been passed down through generations. Listen in to hear traditional tales about the origin of tomatoes, why lizards bob their heads, and more. There's a lesson to be learned in each one.

APP OF THE WEEK



LLAMAGOTCHI

Apple App Store

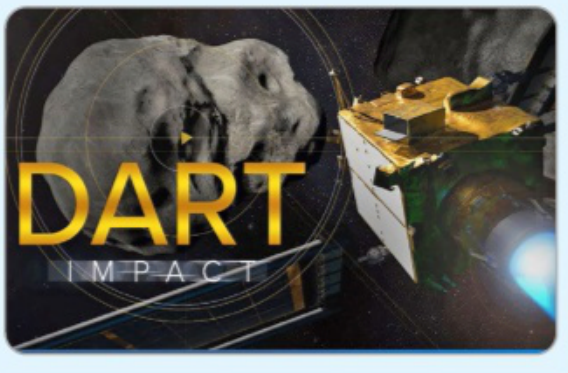
Cats and dogs are nice, but imagine owning a pet llama. This app gives you a chance to have a virtual one that you can feed, play games with, and even dress up. Once you've earned your llama's trust, you can go on adventures together up a mountain.

VIDEO OF THE WEEK

DART'S IMPACT WITH ASTEROID DIMORPHOS

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-DART

Find out how and why NASA sent its unmanned Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) spacecraft on an approximately 7-million-mile trip to crash into an asteroid, and watch as it finally made impact on September 26.



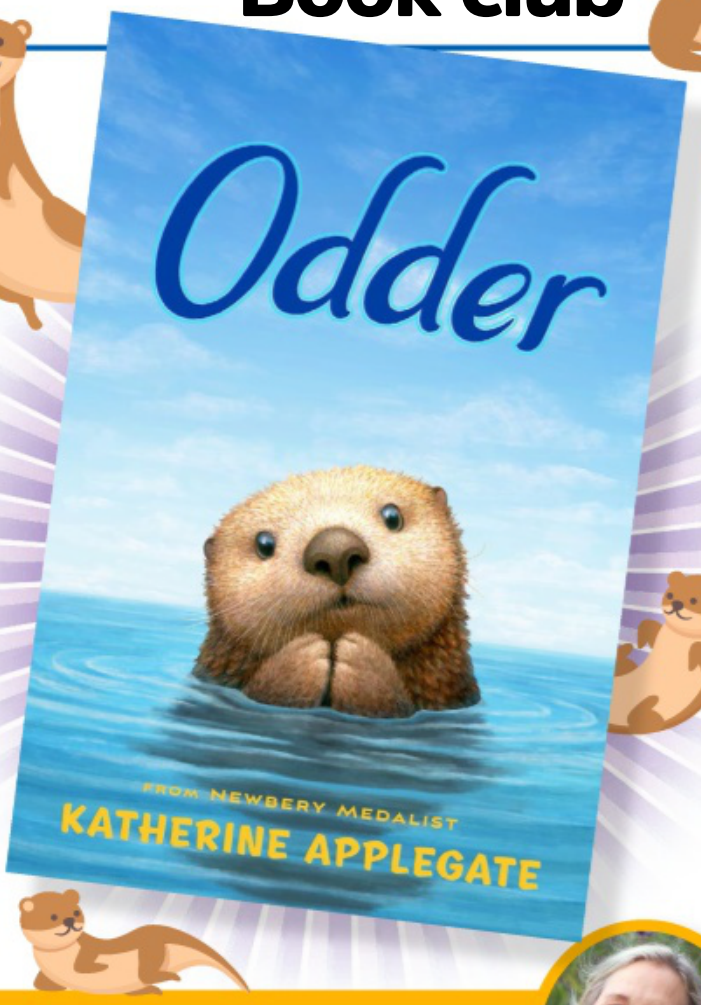
EA GAMES (2); ABF FAM; PANDAWORKS STUDIO; NASA

BOOK OF THE WEEK

Odder

By Katherine Applegate, illustrated by Charles Santoso
(Feiwel & Friends)

During a storm, Odder, a baby sea otter, gets pulled ashore. Scientists rescue her and nurse her back to health. They teach her skills so she can return to the ocean. After months of practice, a diver brings her to a bay and she swims off with other otters. Now, three years later, Odder is a daredevil. She and her otter friend are playing in waters slightly outside their safe area when a great white shark swims by and wants to eat Odder's friend. Odder hurls herself at the shark. This novel is told in verse (poetry) and is loosely based on sea otters that have been rescued by the Monterey Bay Aquarium in California. Part of the story is told in flashbacks and has details about how otters swim and eat. If you like the author's *The One and Only Ivan*, you may enjoy this book too.



WIN A BOOK!

We're giving away five copies of *Odder*.

For a chance to win, send your name and address to *contests@theweekjunior.com* with Odder in the subject line. Enter by midnight on October 21. See theweekjunior.com/terms for complete rules.

ASK THE AUTHOR

Katherine Applegate

We spoke to the author of *Odder*.

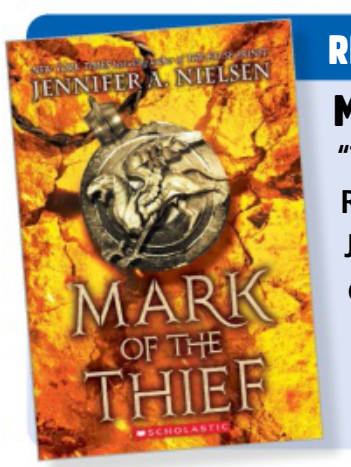
Did you love animals growing up?
Growing up, I was absolutely sure I was going to be a veterinarian. I worked for a vet in high school. I realized as I got older that I was more interested in what animals might be thinking than what was going on inside their bodies.

Have you been to the Monterey Bay Aquarium?
I have, and I was enchanted by it.

What does poetry bring to middle-grade books?
It brings the possibilities of language. You can have a lot of feelings in a very small space, which is cool.

What is your favorite sea creature?
I obviously have to go with otters. They're just magical, the way they move. But I'm also fascinated by whales.

Pool or ocean?
Ocean for sure, but I won't pass up a pool.



READER RECOMMENDS

Mark of the Thief *By Jennifer A. Nielsen*

"This fantasy book is about Nic, a slave working in the mines outside Rome. He is forced to enter a cavern containing the lost treasures of Julius Caesar. But he finds much more than gold and gemstones. He discovers an ancient amulet that is filled with magic once reserved for the Gods. It is magic some Romans would kill for. Will Nic get away with it, or will he get captured?" Boyi, 11, California

Do you have a book to recommend? Send your review to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

4 joke books that will make everyone laugh

These picks have plenty of funny lines you can try out on friends and family.

Dad Jokes for Kids!

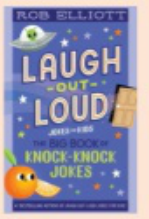
By Jimmy Niro
(Sourcebooks Wonderland)

Filled with 350 jokes, this book includes chapters on animals, sports, monsters, and more. It even gives you pointers on how to write your own jokes. Here's one you can try out: "What time is it when the clock strikes 13? Time to buy a new clock!" *Ages 7–12*

Space Jokes

By Macmillan Children's Books
(Macmillan)

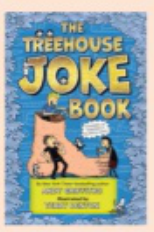
Shaped like a rocket, this book contains hundreds of jokes about planets, astronauts, aliens, and other things associated with space. An example that might crack you up: "How does an astronaut get their baby to sleep? They rocket." *Ages 7 and up*



Laugh-Out-Loud: The Big Book of Knock-Knock Jokes

By Rob Elliott
(HarperCollins)

Hundreds of knock-knock jokes are divided into four chapters: people, places, things, and holidays. Many examples contain puns. Here's one: "Knock, knock. Who's there? Annie. Annie, who? Annie friend of yours is a friend of mine." *Ages 6–10*



The Treehouse Joke Book

By Andy Griffiths, illustrated by Terry Denton
(Feiwel & Friends)

"How do bears keep their dens cool? Bear-conditioning!" That's just one of the hundreds of jokes from the creator of the Treehouse book series. The comic-like drawings may tickle your funny bone even more. *Ages 6–10*

BOOKS: COURTESY THE PUBLISHERS; AUTHOR: COURTESY KATHERINE APPLEGATE; GETTY IMAGES

WOW!
The earliest known drawing, which is a rock with red lines on it, is 73,000 years old. It was discovered in 2018 in South Africa.

Practice your drawing

Give your art skills a boost with these creative tips and tricks.

Drawing is a great activity because you can basically do it anytime and anywhere. Plus, the possibilities of what to draw are endless. You could start by sketching your favorite animals, making portraits of family members, illustrating your own graphic novel, or even submitting your work to our Winter Cover Contest (see the next page). "Drawing can be a great way to share your creativity with others," says artist Gabrielle Brickey. Here's how you can learn more about this art form.

Start with basic supplies

You can start drawing right away with paper and a pencil you already have. As you get more involved in this activity, you might want to pick up a few more supplies, such as an eraser, a sketchpad, and various writing utensils. (Colored pencils, charcoal pencils, markers, and pastels are good options to try.) But for now, whatever you have at home will work.

Transform a blank page.

Choose something to draw

It's easier to draw something when you're looking at it, rather than trying to draw from memory. So pick an item you can see, like a piece of fruit or a tree outside your window. Another option is to print out a picture of something you really want to draw. An inspiring subject will get you excited to keep drawing.

Consider an object's form

Begin by looking at the shapes that make up the object you're drawing. This is easier than trying to outline your drawing all at once. For example, many animals have oval bodies with round heads and long, rectangular legs. Sketch out these shapes first to get the basic form down. Then add details. When you're done, erase any of the lines from the original shapes that you no longer need.

Sketch frequently

The best way to get better is to keep drawing. Have a sketchbook on hand and draw in it whenever you can. Try giving yourself fun challenges, like drawing for 10 minutes every day for a month. Another way to practice is to find a piece of art that you love and draw it again and again. (For inspiration, look at the art on a museum website, like metmuseum.org.) You'll be able to see how your skills improve over time.

Gain new skills from an expert

You can learn a lot about drawing on your own. But eventually you might want to get some help. Ask an adult to help you search for free step-by-step drawing tutorials on a website, such as openculture.com. Or sign up for drawing courses at sites like outschool.com. Museums and art galleries in your area may also offer classes for kids.

5 interesting things to try drawing

Bowl of fruit
Arrange a few types of fruit, such as apples, pears, and bananas, in a bowl, then draw them. Fruit is great to start with because the shapes are less complicated than other foods.

Eyes
Drawing portraits of people's faces takes practice. One way to start is by drawing eyes. This will help you learn to focus on details (like lids and lashes), as well as shading around the eye.

Birds
Look at pictures of birds in books or online, then try to draw them. Practicing with many different shapes of birds will help you when you begin drawing other animals.

Butterfly
Drawing a butterfly is a good way to practice details. Sketch out the basic shape and then focus on adding patterns and color to the wings.

Landscape
By drawing landscapes, you'll learn to add perspective to your artwork. Perspective is when you make some things in a drawing look closer and other things appear farther away.

GETTY IMAGES (7)

Enter our Winter Cover Contest!

How to enter

1. Remove this page and create a cover design. Submissions will be judged on creativity, originality, and how well they reflect the winter theme and *The Week Junior.* Try to picture your artwork on our cover! Be sure it's in color, and indicate the title of your drawing at the bottom of the page. If you need another form to complete your design, you can print one out at theweekjunior.com/activities.
2. When you're finished, a parent/guardian should go to theweekjunior.com/activities to print, fill out, and sign the consent form. To officially enter, the consent form and a digital image of your artwork should be emailed to *covercontest@theweekjunior.com.*
3. The deadline to apply is November 4, 2022. Finalists will be notified on or about November 14. Full contest rules can be found at theweekjunior.com/covercontestrules.

The judges

The contest judges are award-winning children's book creators **Kat Fajardo, Jeff Kinney,** and **Jo Rioux,** along with Editor-in-Chief Andrea Barbalich and Creative Director Dean Abatemarco.

The prize

The winning entry will be featured on the front cover of Issue 140 of *The Week Junior,* dated December 23, 2022.

ENTER BY NOVEMBER 4!

Allow for our cover headline to go here.

↑ Our mailing label will go in the lower left corner, so try not to draw anything too important in this space.

Applicant name: _____ Age: _____ State: _____

Parent/guardian name: _____ Parent/guardian email: _____

Title of drawing: _____

NO PURCHASE OR SUBSCRIPTION NECESSARY. Open to legal residents of US, DC, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, 8–14 years. Professional artists are not eligible. Ends 11:59:59 p.m. ET 11/4/2022. Void where prohibited. See Official Rules at theweekjunior.com/covercontestrules. Sponsor: *The Week Junior,* a division of Future PLC.

Puzzles

Word search

Can you find all these names from Greek mythology in the grid? They are hidden horizontally, vertically, or diagonally and can be forward or backward. When you're done, read the remaining letters to get a bonus message.

ACHILLES
ADONIS
AJAX
APHRODITE
APOLLO
ARACHNE
ARES
ARTEMIS
ATHENA
ATLAS
CHARON
CRONUS
DEMETER
ECHO
ELECTRA
HADES
HELEN
HERA
HERMES
HESTIA
ICARUS
JASON
MEDEA
MEDUSA
MIDAS
NIKE
PANDORA
POSEIDON
PROMETHEUS
RHEA
TRITON
ZEUS

			R	O	A	S	U	D	E	M			
				S	M	U	A	A	N				
	M	A		U	Y	R	T	D	H		S	B	
J	O	R	P	E	E	A	C	H	I	L	L	E	S
A	R		O	H	W	C	E	D	G	M		O	A
S	D			T	R	I	T	O	N			S	L
O	U		F	E	R	O	O	M	H	T		A	T
N	H	N	E	M	N	O	D	I	E	S	O	P	A
	M	R	O	O	U	C	H	I	S	E	A	O	
R	C	H	A	R	O	N	A	R	T	C	E	L	E
L	C	E	I	P	C	T	E	R	I	E	G	L	K
E	P	A	E	N	H	C	A	R	A	S	R	O	I
E	E	A	K	E	M	M	Y	T	I	H	D	S	N
	A	X	N	H	E	L	E	N	N	E	Z	H	
	D	A	C	D	H	A	O	N	M	G	E	E	
		J	E	D	O	D	T	E	H	R	U		
		A	S	E	A	R	T	E	M	I	S		
			I	E	R	E	A	E	N	A			
					R	M	S	E					
				S	H	A	D	E	S				

OFF SIDES

Make three different five-letter words by using the letters given to fill in the blanks.

D G H L N P

_ A V E _

_ A V E _

_ A V E _

FILL IN THE BLANKS

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

Fill in the blanks in each sentence with two words that are the same except for a different first letter, like GEAR and PEAR. The two words will not rhyme.

1. The waitress brought ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ for everyone at the table and said she would come back ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ to take our order.
2. Mom's high bid at the charity ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ won the antique vacuum cleaner, but at home she found out its ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ isn't strong enough to pick up dirt.
3. The grandfather heard the ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ of happy children on his front porch just before discovering that his ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ and her kids had arrived for a surprise visit.

Out of order

The numbers 1 to 9 can fit, one per square, so that no two consecutive numbers are in squares that touch in any way, even at a corner. Use the numbers already given to figure out where the rest of the numbers go. (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

3	6		8

Spot the difference

These two pictures of a spacewalk appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?

PUZZLES BY PUZZABILITY; GETTY IMAGES

Out of order hint: The 7 can only go in the bottom box.

That's unbelievable!

Greedy bear shocks party guests

As a boy named Cyrus celebrated his second birthday in Connecticut, an unexpected guest crashed the party. A black bear walked into the family's yard, sniffed a surprised party guest, then went straight to the food. The bear ignored most of the treats on the table—and the shouting adults—but happily helped itself to the birthday cupcakes. Afterward, it wandered back into the woods, leaving the party guests unharmed. In an amazing coincidence, the family said the Disney song "The Bare Necessities" was playing when the animal came by.

Sweet airplane sounds

Passengers on a Southwest Airlines flight to Honolulu, Hawaii, were treated to a music lesson at 30,000 feet. Upon boarding in Long Beach, California, they found a free ukulele (a small string instrument that is popular in Hawaii) in each seat. During the flight, instructors from the musical instrument company Guitar Center taught the travelers to play a classic song. "By the time they arrived in Honolulu, they were pros," the airline posted on social media.

A pest on a pedestal

Some towns build monuments to famous people, but not Enterprise, Alabama. In the 1900s, an insect called a boll weevil destroyed the town's cotton fields. Farmers switched crops, and Enterprise became known for growing peanuts. Now the town is known for something else: its monument to the boll weevil, which, as one farmer explained, "caused us to be resilient."

Real or fake?

Flying car takes to the skies

The first model of a new flying car has been revealed to the public. Created by the Swedish company Jetson, the vehicle sells for more than $90,000 and can reach speeds of up to 63 miles per hour. Right now it has room for only one passenger, but the company hopes to develop a version that can carry three more. Jetson announced that it will "go full speed ahead with mass production." Is this the car of the future—or nothing but a flight of fancy?*

127 dogs watch *101 Dalmatians*

Dog owners in the UK city of Worcester broke a world record on September 11 when they gathered for a special outdoor screening of *101 Dalmatians*. The event was attended by a total of 127 dogs, which stands as the highest number at an outdoor movie screening. The previous record had been set in 2019, when 120 dogs gathered in Brazil to watch *The Secret Life of Pets 2*. Rachel Marie, who organized the Worcester event and raised more than $500 for an animal rescue charity, said all the dogs behaved beautifully.

*Real! More than 400 of the flying cars have already been sold, and the company was recently given $10 million to help it grow. However, no one knows what the future holds for flying cars or whether they will be safe enough for the public to use.

GETTY IMAGES (3); SHUTTERSTOCK; TWITTER/@SOUTHWESTAIR; SWNS (2)

Your turn

Editor's note

All of us at *The Week Junior* are concerned about the millions of people affected by two major hurricanes that have struck within the past two weeks. As we reported last week, Hurricane Fiona caused extensive damage from Puerto Rico to Canada. A few days later, Hurricane Ian struck Florida, South Carolina, and North Carolina (p2). If you live in an area that has been damaged by the storms—or if you have loved ones or friends in those areas—please know we are thinking of you. We hope our article helps you understand what happened and how people are being helped. We also hope you enjoy the rest of this issue, which includes the announcement of our Winter Cover Contest (p25). The winning drawing will appear on the cover of Issue 140, and I expect the judging to be very difficult! The deadline to enter is November 4.

Andrea Barbalich
Editor-in-Chief

Stella and Siri, 11, Oregon

Selling lemonade to help Ukraine

"My friend Siri and I had a lemonade and cookie stand to raise money against the war. We had always wanted to have a lemonade stand, and we went through with it this time. When we heard about the war that was happening, we wanted to do something, and we were also good at baking. So the day before, we prepared the cookies and signs. We made over $170! And it was raining that day!"

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

JOKE OF THE WEEK
What sound do porcupines make when they kiss?
Ouch!

CHARITY OF THE WEEK

Zambian Carnivore Program

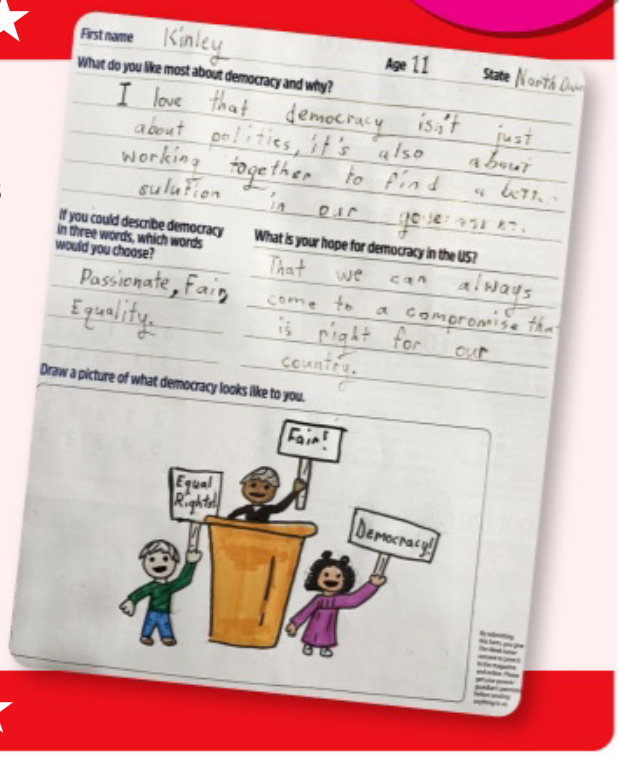
This organization works to protect large carnivores (meat-eating animals) and their habitats in Zambia. Some of the animals it focuses on are lions, cheetahs, and wild dogs. It works with local communities to reduce poaching (illegal hunting) of wild animals, and it treats animals that have been wounded by poachers. Find out more at zambiacarnivores.org.

Zambian CARNIVORE PROGRAMME

DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

Celebrating our democracy

A founding principle of the United States is that it's a democracy—meaning that citizens hold the power to elect the people who govern them. This year, Election Day will be on November 8. As a reader of *The Week Junior*, you may have opinions about America's democratic process. We want to hear them! Ask a parent or guardian to download a form at theweekjunior.com/activities. Fill it out, then have an adult email it to us at *hello@theweekjunior.com*. We'll feature some of the submissions on this page in future issues.



THE WEEK Junior **IT'S YOUR TURN** Email your news, views, and photos to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

Your turn

YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Send them to us at *hello@theweekjunior.com*, along with anything you'd like to tell us about what's in the photo.

"We had a great time making this dessert and an even better time eating it!" Dahlia and Flore, 13, New York

"I read *The Pear Affair* (book of the week for August 12), and it made me very hungry!" Cecile, 9, Oklahoma

"I'd like to introduce my domino creation to *The Week Junior*! I'm always excited when *The Week Junior* is delivered to my house!" Jackson, 10, Nevada

POPJAM

Sign up and follow @theweekjuniorus on PopJam, a social media platform for kids 7–12. Ask an adult to download the app from iTunes or Google Play.

We asked: What is your favorite fall activity and why?

"Seeing autumn leaves change color."

"Baking apple crisp with my grandma!"

"Going on walks, because I love the smell of the air and the wonderful weather."

"Trick-or-treating on Halloween!"

In the big debate, we asked: Should Election Day be a national holiday?

"It should. It will give people a chance to think and reflect."

"No. Kids should not get a day off school for something they aren't allowed to do."

"Yes, because it's an important event that should have a celebration."

Now tell us: What is your favorite musical instrument and why?

Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Mr. Santosa**

School: **Katherine Delmar Burke School**

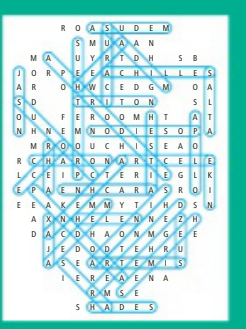
"Mr. Santosa is kind and helpful, and most of all he is creative. He is our makery teacher, and he always has fun activities for us to do! Each week I look forward to having makery class because he makes it so fun. He is definitely one of my favorite teachers. He totally deserves to be nominated!"

Tallula, 9, California

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week! Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

Puzzle answers (from page 26)

Word search
Unused letters: Roman myths borrowed gods from the much earlier Greek myths and changed their names.



Off sides
gavel
haven
paved

			4
3	6		8
1	9	2	5
			7

Fill in the blanks
1. water, later
2. auction, suction
3. laughter, daughter

Quiz answers (from page 30)
1 c) James Madison **2** The pyramids **3** True **4** b) South America **5** Toilet **6** c) Singing **7** Hunger, nutrition, and health **8** False. It was the OL Reign. **9** b) Monterey Bay Aquarium **10** True **11** a) Two **12** Chris Paul **13** False. There are more than 6,000 species. **14** Seven **15** c) Ukuleles

ON THIS PAGE: GETTY IMAGES; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.

Quiz of the week

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 Pop singer Lizzo recently played a crystal flute once owned by which US President?

a) John Adams b) Thomas Jefferson

c) James Madison

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

2 Workers in ancient Egypt may have moved stone blocks on the Nile River to build what monuments?

---

3 True or false? The new video game FIFA 23 is the first in the series to feature women's teams.

True ☐ False ☐

4 The Andes mountain range is located on which continent?

a) Africa b) South America c) Australia

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

5 Electronics company Samsung designed a waterless version of what plumbing fixture?

---

6 In the new film *Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile*, Lyle communicates by doing what?

a) Talking b) Dancing c) Singing

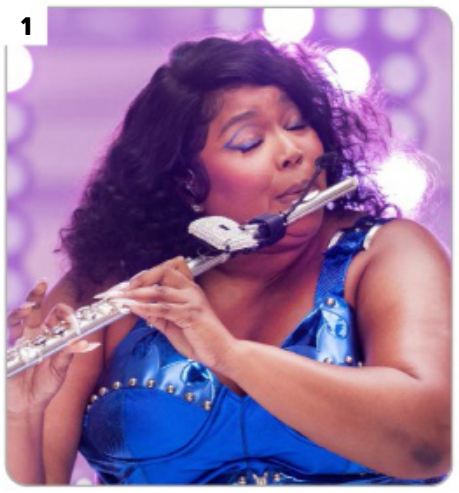
a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

7 What was the topic of a conference held at the White House on September 28?

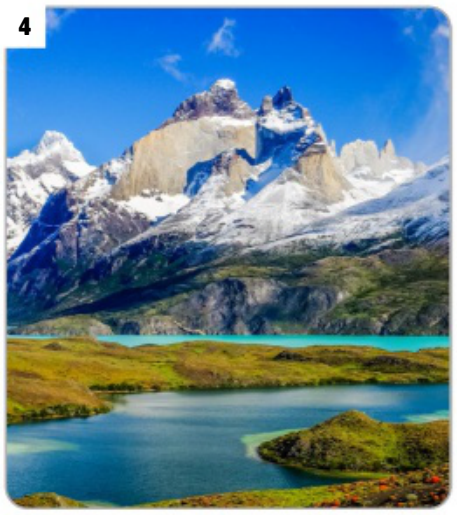
---

8 True or false? The Orlando Pride had the best record in the National Women's Soccer League this season.

True ☐ False ☐



ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.



9 The new book *Odder* is partly inspired by sea otters rescued by what aquarium?

a) Florida Aquarium

b) Monterey Bay Aquarium

c) Mystic Aquarium

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

10 True or false? The town of Enterprise, Alabama, has a monument dedicated to the boll weevil.

True ☐ False ☐

11 Members of the US House of Representatives serve terms of how many years?

a) Two b) Four c) Six

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

12 Which basketball star has released a new line of plant-based snacks?

---

13 True or false? There are fewer than 6,000 species of ladybugs in the world.

True ☐ False ☐

14 The Los Angeles Dodgers recently became one of how many teams to win at least 110 games in a Major League Baseball season?

---

15 Passengers on a Southwest Airlines flight to Hawaii were given what instrument on their flight?

a) Flutes b) Mandolins c) Ukuleles

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

THE WEEK Junior

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The Week Junior (ISSN 2689-9027) is published weekly, except January 7, January 14, July 15, and September 16. *The Week Junior* is published by Future PLC, 135 West 41st Street, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10036. Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTERS: Send change of address to *The Week Junior,* PO Box 37595, Boone, IA 50037-7595.

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THE WEEK Junior

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The Putra Mosque, an Islamic house of prayer that was completed in 1999, overlooks the Putrajaya Lake in Malaysia.

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